

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/ phrases have been given in bold to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Among those suffering from the global recession are millions of workers who are not even included in the official statistics : urban recyclers – the trash pickers, sorters, traders and reprocessors who extricate paper, cardboard and plastics from garbage heaps and prepare them for reuse. Their work is both unrecorded and largely unrecognized, even though in some parts of the World they handle as much as 20% of all waste. The World's 15 million informal recyclers clean up cities prevent some trash from ending in landfills and thus, reduce climate change by saving energy on waste disposal techniques like incineration. In the developed countries they are the preferred ones since they recycle waste much more cheaply and efficiently than governments or private corporations can. In the developing World, on the other hand, they provide the only recycling services except for a few big cities. But as recession hits the markets Worldwide, the price of scrap metal, paper and plastic has also fallen. Recyclers throughout the World are experiencing a **sharp** drop in income. Trash pickers and scrapdealers saw a decline of as much as 80% in the price of scrap from October 2007 to October 2009. In some countries scrap dealers have **shuttered** so quickly that researchers at the Solid Waste Management Association didn't have a chance to record their losses.

In Delhi, some 80% of families in the informal recycling business surveyed by an organization said they had cut back on "luxury foods," which they defined as fruit, milk and meat. About 41% had stopped buying milk for their children. By this summer, most of those children, already malnourished, hadn't had a glass of milk in nine months. Many of these children have also cut down on hours spent in school to work alongside their parents. Families have **liquidated** their most valuable assets – primarily copper from electrical wires – and have stopped sending remittances back to their rural villages. Many have also sold their emergency stores of grain. Their misery is not as familiar as that of the laid-off workers of big name but imploding, service sector corporation, but it is often more tragic.

Few countries have adopted emergency measures to help trash pickers. Brazil, for one, is providing recyclers, or "catadores," with cheaper food, both through arrangements with local farmers and by offering food subsidies. Other countries, with the support of non-governmental organizations and donor agencies are following Brazil's example. Unfortunately, most trash pickers operate outside official notice and end up falling through the **cracks** of programmes like

these. In the long run, though, these **invisible** workers will remain especially vulnerable to economic slowdowns unless they are integrated into the formal business sector, where they can have insurance and reliable wages. This is not hard to accomplish. Informal junk shops should have to apply for licences, and governments should create or expand doorstep waste collection programmes to employ trash pickers. Instead of sorting through haphazard trash heaps and landfills, the pickers would have access to the cleaner scrap that comes from households.

The need of the hour, however, is a more immediate solution. An efficient but temporary solution would be for governments where they'd have to pay a small subsidy to waste dealers so they could purchase scrap from trash pickers at about 20% above the current price. This increase, if well advertised and broadly utilized, would bring recyclers a higher price and eventually bring them back

from the brink. Trash pickers make our cities healthier and more liveable. We all stand to gain by making sure that the work of recycling remains sustainable for years to come.

1. **Which of the following is not true in the context of the passage?**
 1. Purchase of trash at a higher price by the government is only a temporary solution to the larger problem
 2. The welfare programs started by the government for the recyclers largely fail to help them
 3. In the last couple of years the price of scrap has come down to 20% of its original price
 4. Few countries have started to take steps against the plight of the recyclers
 5. All the true
2. **According to the passage, which of the following measures have been taken to help the distressed recyclers?**

(A) Helping them with the aid of NGOs.
(B) Taking steps to make the scrap pickers have access to cleaner scrap.
(C) Providing food subsidies to the recyclers.

 1. Only A
 2. Only B
 3. Only C
 4. Only B and C
 5. None of these
3. **How, according to the author, have the recyclers contributed towards saving the environment?**

(A) By preventing the trash being dumped into the landfills.
(B) By using renewable sources of energy to recycle the scrap.
(C) By helping to avoid the energy consuming waste disposal techniques.

 1. Only A
 2. Only B
 3. Only A and B
 4. Only A and C
 5. None of these
4. **Which of the following has not been an effect of the losses observed in the informal waste recycling?**
 1. To help their families, the children of the recyclers have started working thus compromising on their education
 2. Many scrap dealers have discontinued their businesses
 3. The government in many countries has derecognized scrap dealers in view of their unprofitable business
 4. Governments in many countries had to take emergency steps to help the recyclers deal with the crisis
 5. None of these

5. **What does the author mean by “Their misery is not as familiar as that of the laid-off workers of big-name but imploding, service sector corporation” as given in the passage?**
1. The effect of recession on the famous organizations is clearly noticed, whereas the plight of informal recyclers is neglected.
 2. Big name corporations are often hesitant to help the relatively smaller set-ups such as that of the informal recyclers.
 3. The big name private recyclers have been getting the government help, whereas the smaller ones are not
 4. The misery of the informal recyclers has been kept a secret by the government
 5. None of these
6. **Which of the following is true regarding waste recycling in the developing countries?**
1. The government and private organizations services are much costlier than the informal recyclers.
 2. Barring a few cities, government waste recycling mechanism is completely lacking in these countries
 3. There has not been any effort in the developing countries to help the struggling recyclers
 4. Global recession has hit the recyclers of the developing countries
 5. None of these
7. **Which step does the author suggest in order to immediately bring the waste recyclers back from the adversity?**
1. Enabling the scrap dealers to purchase scrap at a price higher than that of the market
 2. By advertising recycling as a profitable business amongst the informal recyclers
 3. Banning the waste collection by informal trash pickers
 4. Supporting the families of the recyclers until the recession tides over
 5. None of these
8. **Which of the following is intended in the given passage?**
1. To highlight the domination of the big-name service industry corporations in the scrap dealing business
 2. To highlight various factors responsible for the prevailing malnutrition in children of the informal recyclers
 3. To suggest the steps which can help the anguished recyclers
 4. To explain the measures which can be taken in order to make recycling more energy efficient
 5. None of these

9. Why, according to the author, are the urban recyclers facing a sharp decline in their business?

1. Recession has adversely affected the prices of scrap thus, making it an unprofitable business
2. Many governmental and private organizations have entered the business providing a comparatively better service
3. Their work has been gradually derecognized by the government
4. Recycling and waste disposing techniques are cost inefficient
5. None of these

10. What measures does the author suggest to help the informal recyclers in the times to come?

1. To encourage them to work in union with the private organizations
2. To provide them subsidies in food and education throughout their business career
3. To record their losses precisely with the research conducted by Solid Waste Management Association and then take appropriate steps
4. To involve them in the organized sector so as to enable them to have a stable income
5. None of these

ANSWER KEY

1	3
2	3
3	4
4	3
5	3
6	4
7	1
8	4
9	1
10	4